

Weekly Views

June 8, 2012

Miami Correctional Facility has been awarded a \$3,500 grant from the Indiana State Library and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. A total of 268 books were purchased and placed in the facility's two libraries for offender use. The goal of the project was to provide resources to support the educational needs of the offender population, offering tools to enhance learning and decrease illiteracy.

Indiana State University Criminology and Criminal Justice students toured Wabash Valley for a hands-on look at corrections and a maximum-security prison. Professor Shannon Bellessa said she has heard nothing but positive feedback from the students regarding their experiences. The classroom extension field trip has proved so successful that she's booked another tour for her 2013 class!

The Indiana Women's Prison (IWP) Offender Family Preservation Committee held a fundraiser for IWP's Annual Summer Teens and Kids Camp. Chicken, soda and chips were sold to the offender population, netting \$2,200 to fund the Teens and Kids Day Camp scheduled for July 13 and 14. Superintendent McCauley is very pleased with the Family Preservation program and is looking forward to this year's camp.

Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) held its annual major disaster drill, a hostage scenario including a fire set inside the building. The drill required the facility to relocate to a secondary command center with deployment of the Homeland Security Regional Command Center. Coincidentally, WCC Emergency Squad established the secured perimeter just as two A-4 Warthog "tank killer" jets did a low-level flyover. Talk about a show of force! (see photo below of an injured hostage, played by a staff member, and emergency responders)



Students from Indiana State University's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) toured the Putnamville Correctional Facility. OLLI promotes learning for individuals 50 and older through lectures, courses and special events. Superintendent Stanley Knight welcomed the visitors at the onset of the tour and participated in a Q & A session at the conclusion of the tour. The students ranged in age from 53 to 90 years.

Mark Spratt, PEN Products Controller, competed in the Great Hudson River Swim in New York City on May 26, 2012. Mark finished 13th overall in a field of 374 and finished first in his age category completing the 1.6 miles in 31 minutes and 28 seconds. Besides swimming in the Hudson River, he withstood the mid-sixty degree water temperature and was first to finish without a wetsuit. Great job Mark!

The Correctional Industrial Facility conducted a final commencement ceremony to honor the facility's most recent offender graduates of the on-site Ball State University. Ball State University recognized 44 offenders for earning an Associate Degree and 23 offenders were conferred with a Bachelor Degree from Ball State. Mr. Isaac Randolph of Religious Services & Community Involvement served as the guest speaker for the graduation event. Mr. Randolph delivered a powerful and inspirational message to the offender graduates.

South Madison Community Council held their monthly meeting at Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility. They were provided lunch by the Culinary Arts program. After the meeting, the members participated in a facility tour.

Camp Summit students and staff were treated to an outdoor concert by the Mirror Image Tour Group from the First Baptist Church of Spartanburg, SC. The entertainment included songs, dance demonstrations and stories of hope and encouragement by the nearly 90 participants. This year marked the group's 20th year of their Summer Tour of performing at Juvenile Correctional and Detention facilities throughout the country. The group's main performers are high school seniors from the Spartanburg area who contributed a portion of their own money to fund the tour.

Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) conducted a graduation ceremony to honor the most recent graduates of the facility's Level One Outside Dorm GED and Vocational Horticulture programs. Former PCF offender Glen Ford served as guest speaker for the event. During Mr. Ford's incarceration he completed the GED Program and participated in the Thinking for a Change program. Mr. Ford is now a productive citizen, works as an Independent Contractor, and is actively involved in providing services in the community.

The Indiana State Prison conducted what may be their final college graduation to honor 78 men from Grace College. 44 Associate and 36 Bachelor Degrees were earned by the graduates. This marks the 26th year Grace College has been educating the men incarcerated at the Indiana State Prison. Grace College honored six men from Ball State who also graduated with this class. Commencement Speaker Summa Cum Laude graduate Michael Penrod stated he did this for his parents. This gives him the opportunity to be the best he can possibly be. He was asked, "Why get an education?" and his response was, "This is the beginning of a journey to help others."

Chain O' Lakes Correctional Facility held a GED graduation ceremony for five offenders. Twenty-five family members and friends attended the ceremony to show their support for the offenders. After the ceremony the celebration continued with refreshments, pizza and cake.